

Serial No.: 10/811,942
Art Unit: 3711

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (original) A method of dealing a card game, comprising the steps of:

(a) dealing two cards to each of one or more players and to a dealer, from a deck of cards having a plurality of ranks, each rank having a point value;

(b) allowing each player to discard one of the cards that the player has been dealt, if the player pays a fee, provided that the player does not have a card of a specified rank;

(c) dealing a replacement card to each player who has discarded a card;

(d) dealing an additional card to each player who indicates that he or she wants an additional card;

(e) dealing an additional card to the dealer, provided that the total point value for the cards previously dealt to the dealer is below a minimum sum;

(f) repeating steps (d) and (e) until no player wants additional cards and the total point value of the cards dealt to the dealer equals or exceeds the minimum sum; and

(g) designating as a winner the player (or the dealer) having cards with the greatest total point value that does not exceed a

Serial No.: 10/811,942
Art Unit: 3711

maximum sum.

2. (original) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 1, wherein payments are made to the players who are winners.

3. (original) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 2, wherein bets are taken from the players before the cards are dealt.

4. (original) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 3, wherein the cards of the specified rank may be counted as having either the highest or the lowest point value.

5. (original) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 4, wherein there are an equal number of cards of each rank in the deck.

6. (original) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 5, wherein there are four cards of each rank in the deck.

7. (original) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 6, wherein there are four suits of cards, with one card of each suit in each rank.

Serial No.: 10/811,942
Art Unit: 3711

8. (original) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 7, wherein the ranks of the cards are Ace, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, Jack, Queen, and King, with the Aces having a point value of either one or eleven, the Jacks, Queens and Kings each having a point value of ten, and the other cards having a point value equal to the number of their rank.

9. (original) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 8, wherein the maximum sum is twenty-one.

10. (original) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 9, wherein the minimum sum is seventeen.

11. (original) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 10, wherein an Ace has a point value of eleven, unless it will cause the total point value of the cards in the player's (or the dealer's) hand to exceed twenty-one, in which case the Ace has a point value of one.

12. (original) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 11, in which a player may discard one of the two cards that he or she is initially dealt only if the total point value of the two cards is sixteen or less.

Serial No.: 10/811,942
Art Unit: 3711

13. (original) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 12, wherein when the total point value of the cards in a player's hand is greater than twenty-one, the player is out of the game.

14. (original) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 13, wherein the fee paid by the player to discard one card is a fixed percentage of the amount bet by the player.

15. (original) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 14, wherein the fixed percentage is twenty percent.

16. (original) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 13, wherein the fees paid by the players to discard are refunded if the total point value of the cards in the dealer's hand is exactly twenty-one.

Serial No.: 10/811,942
Art Unit: 3711

17. (original) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 13, wherein, if the total point value of the cards in the dealer's hand is exactly twenty-one, any player having an Ace or a 10 in his or her hand may draw or be dealt an additional card from the deck, and if the total point value of the cards in the player's hand is then exactly twenty-one, he or she will be paid as a winner.

18. (original) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 13, wherein, if the total point value of the cards in the dealer's hand is exactly twenty-one, any player having an Ace or a 10 in his or her hand may pay a second fee, discard one card, and draw or be dealt an additional card from the deck, and if the total point value of the cards in the player's hand is then exactly twenty-one, he or she will be paid as a winner.

19. (original) The method of dealing a card game according to claim 13, wherein one of the two cards dealt initially to the dealer is placed face down.

20. (currently amended) The method of dealing a card game according to claim [[13]] 1, wherein the cards are represented on a display screen of an electronic device.